

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8157

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L BELGRADE 6250

EO 11652 GDS

TAGS: PFOR YO US AO

SUBJ: BRITISH FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICER'S COMMENTS ON ANGOLA  
SITUATION

1. AT DINNER HELD IN BELGRADE FOR VISITING BRITISH  
DEFENCE COLLEGE STUDENTS, EMBCOUNS TALKED WITH  
BRITISH FOREIGN OFFICE OFFICIAL RECENTLY IN ANGOLA  
AS BRITISH OBSERVER AT MERCENARIES' TRIAL.

2. THIS OFFICER, WHO SAID HE HAD FINISHED UP IN ANGOLA  
ABOUT TWO MONTHS AGO AND WHO HAD PREVIOUSLY SERVED  
IN MOZAMBIQUE, OFFERED THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS:

A. SOVIETS HAVE DUG THEMSELVES DEEPLY INTO THE  
SECURITY ADMINISTRATION IN ANGOLA AND HAVE ABOUT 200  
PERSONNEL WORKING IN THE POLICE AND INTERIOR APPARATUS.  
BRITISH OFFICER SAID THAT THIS WAS AN "EFFICIENT  
GROUP THAT COULD BE WRAPPED UP QUICKLY" IN CASE OF  
TROUBLE.

B. CUBAN MILITARY ARE STILL HEAVILY ENGAGED  
IN FIGHTING AND UNITA HAS BEEN INFLECTING FAIRLY  
SIZEABLE CASUALTIES ON CUBAN FORCES. PORT OF LOBITO  
WAS AT ONE POINT CLOSED FOR THIRTY-SIX HOURS WHILE  
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CUBAN DEAD AND WOUNDED WERE PUT ON SHIPS FOR RETURN

TO CUBA.

C. ON THE OTHER HAND, CUBAN TROOPS ARE "GUARDING"  
GULF OIL INSTALLATIONS IN THE CABINDA AREA  
(PRESUMABLY TO KEEP THEM FROM COMING UNDER ATTACK  
OF FNLA OR OTHER ANTI-NETO FORCES).

D. INTERNAL FACTIONAL FIGHTING WITHIN MPLA IS  
INTENSE.

3. WHILE NONE OF THE ABOVE MAY BE SIGNIFICANT TO  
COGNOSCENTI OF SITUATION, WE PASS IT ALONG NONETHELESS.  
AS TO POLICY PRESCRIPTIONS FOR ANGOLA, THE BRITISH  
OFFICER. WHEN PUSHED, HAD NONE EXCEPT THAT  
US SHOULD PAY DUE REGARD TO WHAT HE CALLED  
"YEASTY AFRICAN DIMENSION". THROUGHOUT THE DINNER  
DISCUSSION HE NEVER DEFINED OR ELABORATED THIS NOTION.  
HE ALSO SAID HE THOUGHT YUGOSLAVS SHOULD BE ALLOWED  
TO PLAY A ROLE IN ANGOLA; THE YUGOSLAV AMBASSADOR  
THERE WAS VERY BRIGHT AND YUGOSLAV NEWS AGENCY  
TANJUG WAS BEST INFORMED. WHEN ASKED TO DESCRIBE  
WHAT HE THOUGHT YUGOSLAVS COULD ACCOMPLISH, HE  
DRIFTED INTO VAGUE REFERENCES ABOUT HOW  
NON-ALIGNED YUGOSLAVIA COULD "STEER" ANGOLA  
AWAY FROM SOVIETS.  
SILBERMAN

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